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Chairman: Mr. Maitland ..... (South Africa)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 78: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Fallouh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that United Nations peacekeeping endeavours represented an important tool for maintaining international peace and security, in addition to reducing tensions and resolving disputes. Success had been achieved in Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Bosnia and Herzegovina. He affirmed that peacekeeping operations should be limited in time and should lead to the application of international resolutions. Such operations should comply with the principles of the United Nations Charter, which entailed obtaining the consent of the parties, using force only in self-defence, neutrality and respect for national sovereignty.

2. The United Nations had begun its peacekeeping operations in the Middle East approximately half a century earlier. It was regrettable that peace in the Middle East was still far off, since Israel was continuing its occupation of Arab lands, its expansionist, settlement and imperialist policies, and its repression of Arab human rights in the occupied territories.

3. The Syrian Arab Republic lauded the sacrifices made by peacekeeping commanders and troops to preserve peace in the Middle East. It welcomed the positive relations existing between Syrian officials and those of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO) and the United Nations Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF), and between the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

4. His delegation wished to raise the question of procurement at the United Nations in general, and in respect of peacekeeping operations in particular. Despite the progress made, it still seemed that most procurement was made from developed countries; his delegation affirmed the need to increase procurement from developing countries. It also believed that the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) and the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2002/56) of 14 January 2002 would contribute to reinforcing cooperation between the Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries in terms of planning, preparing and organizing missions.

5. **Mr. Menelaou** (Cyprus) said that lessons learned from the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) highlighted the need for greater effectiveness and rapid deployment. Peacekeeping operations were of long duration only when there was no effective peacemaking. Despite several United Nations resolutions and successive initiatives by Secretaries-General, there had been no progress on the issue of Cyprus, owing essentially to a lack of political will on the Turkish Cypriot side. As the Security Council had indicated in July, despite the direct talks begun in January, the Turkish Cypriot side had failed to take a constructive approach and declined to help resolve core issues. For the third consecutive year, the Turkish occupation army had advanced its positions along the ceasefire line in the area of Strovilia, resulting in what the Secretary-General described as a clear violation of the status quo. Two days earlier, his Government had been informed of further provocations by the Turkish army in the same area. Turkey's refusal over the years to heed Security Council resolutions calling for the restoration of the military status quo ante and the inability of UNFICYP to intervene reflected negatively on the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping.

6. As a demonstration of its political will to reach a peaceful solution, his Government had put forward a proposal for mine clearance within the buffer zone and had indicated to UNFICYP and the United Nations Mine Action Service that it would proceed unilaterally if necessary. It had also destroyed 4,500 small arms in accordance with the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and voluntarily contributed one third of the UNFICYP budget plus facilities and services. The Turkish Cypriot community would stand to gain from the demilitarization proposal of President Clerides, which would free resources for reconstruction of the island.

7. In conclusion, his delegation paid tribute to the sacrifices of United Nations personnel in the cause of peace and expressed its gratitude to the troop-contributing countries and to UNFICYP, particularly for its role in facilitating contacts between the Greek and Turkish communities, such as the extremely

successful special event organized on 21 October to mark United Nations Day.

8. **Ms. Bolaños** (Guatemala) said that the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) had been a catalysing element which had facilitated her country's transition to peace within the broad terms of its mandate. Its presence had been hailed by Guatemala's President, Mr. Portillo, as the "critical conscience of the State".

9. While recognizing the progress achieved in peacekeeping reform, she singled out rapid deployment and information management and analysis as key aspects of work that remained to be done. Her delegation was in favour of the ongoing consultations between the Secretariat and Member States in that regard and invited the Secretariat to continue the process with a view to meeting funding, equipment and personnel needs. She also urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue cooperating with the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator in order to achieve further progress in planning, personnel training and the provision of reliable equipment to diminish the risk of accident and illness.

10. **Mr. Malick** (Senegal) welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1353 (2001), including the birth of Timor-Leste, the imminent completion of the work of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), closer cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and African regional and subregional organizations and the effective work of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). In that connection, he called for stronger cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and subregional organizations in conflict prevention, management and settlement. International support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development would also help to promote peace and good governance in Africa.

11. His delegation attached particular importance to maintaining order and the rule of law and to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. It welcomed growing efforts by African countries to consolidate the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national level and called for greater support for regional and subregional crisis prevention and settlement mechanisms. Urgent measures must be taken to incorporate disarmament, demobilization and integration into peacekeeping operations. Tangible results could be achieved by taking into account the efforts of all the various actors, including the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries emerging from conflicts, the Security Council ad hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, and input from civil society. In particular, new partnerships should be forged in the areas of early warning, human resources development and national capacity-building. Coordinating the activities of those structures would be the key to success.

12. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of timely reimbursement of troop-contributing countries and said that his delegation endorsed the Special Committee's recommendations to that effect. He urged Member States to fulfil their financial obligations in that regard, in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

13. **Mr. Hassan** (Nigeria) said that although Nigeria was gratified by the recent successes of peacekeeping operations in such places as Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone, Eritrea and Ethiopia, and Prevlaka, it agreed that much remained to be done. The increase in intra- and inter-State conflicts, particularly in Africa, and the resulting proliferation of small arms and light weapons, was of grave concern, as was the rising tide of terrorism around the globe, which had a negative impact on the social, economic and political life of many countries.

14. His delegation was particularly concerned about the rising tension in the Manu River Union region, and the strife in Côte d'Ivoire and in the Great Lakes region. Nigeria reiterated its call for a comprehensive peace strategy in the Manu River Union region. In its view, a holistic security plan for the entire West African subregion would be more fruitful than the ad hoc approach currently taken by the United Nations. It also reiterated its call for enhanced support to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), and strongly urged that the deployment and implementation of its phase III tasks should begin in the next several weeks.

15. Nigeria supported the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and called on the Secretariat to step up its efforts to train and retrain new and existing staff members. In that regard, his

delegation looked forward to the status report in the next report of the Secretary-General. Nigeria fully agreed with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations that the Department must focus on the critical areas of peacekeeping that would ensure ultimate success.

16. Nigeria supported the expansion of the on-call lists, which in its view were the ideal means of achieving rapid deployment in United Nations missions, and had already forwarded its nominations. His delegation was deeply disappointed by the selective deployment of critical enablements and specialist units to the peacekeeping missions, which had resulted in delays and weakened capacities, particularly at MONUC. The maintenance of peace and security was a collective responsibility, and required cooperation and transparent partnership: in that regard, he urged Member States to exercise the political will to furnish such enablements.

17. As a major African troop-contributing country, Nigeria was gratified by the attention being given to the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities, and supported the recommendation that concrete proposals should be formulated in 2003. In addition, it believed that providing well-equipped, well-trained peacekeepers in Africa should be a major preoccupation of the Committee, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and partners. In that respect, it strongly urged the Secretary-General to convene a working group to submit a report for consideration by Member States; consultations with regional organizations should also be undertaken.

18. The provision of training was critical, in view of the unfortunate events that had occurred in Somalia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. In that regard, Nigeria commended the Training and Evaluation Service for the progress it had made in finalizing the Standardised Generic Training Modules (SGTM), welcomed the various related initiatives, and looked forward to a detailed description of that system in the next report of the Secretary-General.

19. Nigeria also welcomed the report of the system-wide task force on rule of law strategies to the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, and believed that the involvement of governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental bodies was indispensable for an effective and well-coordinated rule of law strategy. It also welcomed the restructuring and strengthening of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, and believed that its role should be extended to include components of current missions, with a view to drawing lessons for future use. It commended the Best Practices Unit for formulating the Handbook on UN Multi-dimensional Peacekeeping Operations despite its skeletal staff.

20. Although his delegation was delighted by the improved pace of reimbursements to the troop-contributing countries, it urged the payment of all reimbursements in order to enable such countries to meet their administrative and operational commitments in peacekeeping operations. In the same vein, it called on all Member States to pay their outstanding contributions to the United Nations on time, in full, and without conditions, which was necessary if the Organization was to meet its global obligations to maintain peace and security.

21. Nigeria welcomed the appointment of new military advisers from Netherlands and Nigeria, and, in that regard, hoped that more troop-contributing countries, as well as more underrepresented and unrepresented Member States, would have the opportunity to fill posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Recruitment should be conducted in accordance with the principles of transparency, geographical representation and gender balance; all vacancies should be advertised so as to ensure that candidates from all Member States were accorded equal opportunities. In addition, senior military positions in the field should be occupied by senior officers with national contingents in those missions.

22. **Mr. Lamba** (Malawi) said that his delegation was also pleased with the progress made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in carrying out some of the major recommendations of the Brahimi report. In addition, Malawi commended the Department for the tasks it had performed in Sierra Leone, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Afghanistan, and affirmed its continued support for peacekeeping activities, recalling that it had participated in peacekeeping operations in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kosovo. Despite broad recognition for the need to institutionalize the culture of prevention within the United Nations system and within the context of regional cooperation, much peacekeeping work still occurred after the fact. There was a compelling need to

shift from reaction to prevention, through vigilance and rapid deployment.

23. In order to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions, a mechanism must urgently be established to investigate attacks against them and to prosecute the perpetrators. That could only be achieved, however, with the cooperation and support of States hosting peacekeeping missions. Malawi was concerned about the incidents of indiscipline and misconduct among some peacekeeping personnel, and welcomed the Under-Secretary-General's proposals for tightened discipline and appropriate consultations with relevant Member States. Intensive pre-assignment briefings and orientation seminars, as well as a code of conduct for field personnel, would also be important. His delegation welcomed the idea that the troop-contributing countries and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should work together on matters involving discipline, reimbursement for troop costs and contingent-owned equipment, and rapid deployment. The Security Council should coordinate closely with troop-contributing countries on the matter of strategic deployment stocks. In Malawi's experience, the time lag between selection and deployment had been unpleasantly long.

24. The international community should devote more attention and resources to developing Africa's own peacekeeping capacities, since that was the region of the world most affected by conflicts and civil wars. In that regard, he recalled the commendable performance of African regional groups in resolving conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Rwanda, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would be enhanced by collaboration with regional groups and local players, with financial and other support from the United Nations. Malawi welcomed the establishment of the Open-ended Ad hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the Causes of Conflict and Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. However, it believed that African military, police and other experts should be added to the Headquarters staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

25. His delegation supported the call for adequate training for peacekeepers: the promotion of technical competence and an appreciation of local cultural and political dynamics should greatly enhance mutual cooperation, trust and respect between peacekeepers and local authorities and populations. Malawi joined with other delegations in paying special tribute to the men and women who had been keeping peace around the world; it also commended those who had sacrificed their lives or been injured in the line of duty.

26. **Mr. Sharma** (Nepal) said that in a globalized world, the destiny of all nations and peoples were intertwined: terrorists and thugs moved between nations as easily as did traders and tourists. Since 1958, Nepal had contributed nearly 40,000 military and police personnel to peacekeeping missions around the globe, many of them complex and dangerous, and 43 Nepalese had laid down their lives in the line of duty. Despite major reforms, however, the United Nations peacekeeping record was mixed. The successes of peacekeeping operations in the past year had been heartening; the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had benefited from new posts and improved gender and geographical balances, and many developing countries had increased the level of troop self-sustainment. Much, however, remained to be done. The Security Council was insufficiently transparent, and conducted too few consultations with troop-contributing countries. Many missions lacked clear performance benchmarks and exit strategies; and many were ill planned or ill managed. Four major concerns had emerged: inappropriate behaviour by peacekeepers; the exclusion of poor countries whose troops were not self-sustaining; delays in reimbursements for troops and equipment costs; and, most importantly, the appointment of senior officials from developed nations, while poor nations did the dangerous work.

27. To address those serious issues, the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations must be fully implemented. Clear rules of engagement and a code of conduct for troops and other personnel must be established. The United Nations must continue efforts to help developing countries to train troops and to maintain rapid deployment capacity; it must accord priority to poor countries in the reimbursement of troop and equipment costs; and it must quicken the pace of recruitment for vacant posts, ensuring fair, balanced representation of nationals from all countries in senior positions. The Security Council should strive to improve its consultations and coordination with troop-contributing countries, in accordance with its resolution 1353 (2001). Member States must pay their dues on time, in full and without conditions. The issue

of safety and security for peacekeepers, and the structure of entitlements and compensation for peacekeepers, must be reviewed. An environment of genuine cooperation must be developed between the troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. In the building of peace, emphasis must be placed on prevention.

28. **Ms. Antonijević** (Yugoslavia) said that her delegation welcomed the note of the President of the Security Council of 14 January 2002 on enhancing the existing mechanism for cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. A fully operational Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, scheduled for the end of the year, would boost the strategic planning and analysis capability of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It was equally important to foster cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other parts of the Secretariat. Her delegation also urged the Secretariat to continue both its work towards rapid and effective deployment and its consultations with Member States in that regard.

29. The elements of the new broader and more complex peacekeeping missions should be clearly defined in peacekeeping mandates. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements would be helpful to that end, provided that their respective competences were clear and did not overlap.

30. Yugoslavia was prepared to contribute troops and civilian police to peacekeeping operations. It had recently provided military observers to the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET). As host country to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), it believed strongly that the United Nations and host countries must cooperate in order to deal effectively with core issues of conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. Yugoslavia had undertaken a number of specific measures to assist UNMIK in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and, in 2001, had signed the joint document which formed the basis for that cooperation.

31. **Mr. Droba** (Slovakia) welcomed the progress made in many aspects of rapid deployment. While his delegation supported recent changes in the United Nations Standby Arrangements System, it could not allocate units for that purpose before completing the current process of revamping its own armed forces.

32. Slovakia's commitment to participating in multinational peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance operations was enshrined in the military strategy recently adopted by its Parliament. Despite the demanding tasks of the ongoing reform of its armed forces, Slovakia provided troops, military observers and equipment to seven United Nations peacekeeping operations. With more than 600 personnel currently deployed, its participation had increased more than six-fold in the past three years. Its infantry units participated in two important missions — UNFICYP and UNDOF. His delegation welcomed, in particular, the most recent progress report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea of 30 August (S/2002/977) and was particularly pleased that its demining unit in the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) had been chosen to perform the main demining tasks in support of demarcating the border. It was also pleased to have been able to provide level II hospital facilities to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET/UNMISET). The Slovak Parliament had also recently adopted legislation providing for the participation of Slovak civilian police officers to peacekeeping operations.

33. In conclusion, he welcomed the Special Committee's recommendation to designate 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. As a country which had lost a number of soldiers serving under the United Nations flag, Slovakia fully supported, and was a sponsor of, the draft resolution submitted by Ukraine entitled "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers" (A/C.4/57/L.8).

34. **Mr. De Silva** (Sri Lanka) said that peacekeeping operations must respect the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence of States and non-intervention in their domestic affairs and must be conducive to an eventual political settlement. In order to ensure success, they should be carefully planned and budgeted and have a clearly defined and realistic mandate which reflected the new emphasis on reconciliation, establishment of democratic institutions, human rights, the rule of law and the mobilization of international economic assistance to promote peace, reconstruction and nation-building.

35. The continued shortage of troops for peacekeeping operations could undermine peacekeeping efforts; he urged countries which were in a position to do so to provide the required troops. Troops should be drawn from both the developed and the developing countries. Rapid deployment would be assisted by the participation of countries with the requisite capacity. Sri Lanka had made a modest contribution as a troop-contributing country; he welcomed the efforts to provide standardized training in national and regional centres, which would enhance the capacity of countries like Sri Lanka to contribute troops. He also welcomed the work done by the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, in difficult circumstances, urged remedial action for problems identified and looked forward to publication of the handbook on United Nations multidimensional peacekeeping operations.

36. The adverse effects on third countries, in particular developing countries, of sanctions and enforcement actions, must be addressed and compensatory measures should be considered when framing peacekeeping mandates. The increase in the number of operations and their growing human and material costs had resulted in severe constraints on the resources of the Organization; Member States must pay their assessed contributions on time in order to ensure adequate funding of peacekeeping.

Draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.8: International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

37. **Mr. Kulyk** (Ukraine), introducing the draft resolution, said that the delegations of Belarus, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Tunisia had become sponsors; he hoped the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

38. **The Chairman** announced that the delegations of Australia, Benin, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Mali, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Netherlands, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Slovenia had also joined the list of sponsors. He had been informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

39. *Draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.8 was adopted.*

40. **Mr. Guéhenno** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations), recalling the contributions made by peacekeepers, including the many who had lost their lives in the service of the Organization, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution to create an International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers as well as the decision to award the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal to those who had lost their lives. Peacekeeping operations were the most concrete expression of international solidarity on the part of Member States and that solidarity was the key to guaranteeing the legitimacy and strength of such operations. That solidarity had also been reflected in the Committee's discussions. He would take into account the comments and concerns expressed by members of the Committee in the ongoing reform of peacekeeping operations. Progress had been made but much remained to be done in what would be a constantly evolving process as new challenges arose to be dealt with.

41. **Mr. Mekel** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was regrettable that the representatives of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic had taken advantage of a debate on peacekeeping operations to indulge in unsubstantiated attacks against Israel. The situation in the Middle East and in southern Lebanon proved that peacekeeping operations could succeed only if Governments lived up to their commitments. He recalled that Israel had withdrawn from southern Lebanon in May 2000, in compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978). With regard to the Shebaa Farms, he noted that the position of the United Nations was that the Shebaa Farms were not on the Lebanese side of the Blue Line. The Government of Lebanon must fulfil its obligations, move its armed forces up to the Blue Line and prevent Hezbollah terrorist activities across the Blue Line which were an ongoing threat to international peace and security. It was, of course, hampered in its freedom of action by the presence of 30,000 Syrian troops; the Syrian Arab Republic, which was the major power broker in the area should likewise respect relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1373 (2001) on international terrorism. If the Governments of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic were truly interested in international peace and security they should avoid making baseless allegations and comply with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

42. **Mr. Assaf** (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said he first wished to express appreciation for the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in particular for the United

Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), countries which had contributed troops to that operation and the 244 peacekeepers who had lost their lives during that mission. He was, however, astonished that the representative of Israel had taken the floor in exercise of the right of reply to refer to alleged statements made by him during the Committee's discussions. He was sure that the official records of the Committee would confirm that he had said nothing to justify such a right of reply.

43. To respond to the Israeli delegation's wild accusations, he wished to point out that it was as a result of Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon that peacekeepers had been sent to Lebanon, and as a result of the long Lebanese resistance that Israel had in 2000 been forced to withdraw, after a 22-year occupation; Israel's vaunted compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978) did not obviate the fact that it was still flouting resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973); and that since 2000, there had been 17 repeated air, land and sea violations by Israel of Lebanese territory, in which United Nations facilities had been damaged and hundreds of Lebanese had died.

44. **Mr. Fallouh** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, underscored his country's recognized role in the formulation and adoption of Security Council resolutions, especially resolution 1373 (2001) on anti-terrorism measures, as against Israel's flouting of 29 Security Council resolutions calling for its withdrawal from occupied Territories, and its violation of innumerable others calling for an end to Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory. Before Israel, foreign occupation had been unknown in the Middle East. It was a State founded on terrorism and its history had been marked by bloody massacres, which were still continuing even as dozens of Palestinians were killed daily.

45. The Syrian Arab Republic's presence in Lebanon had begun in response to an official request from the Lebanese Government for it to intervene to safeguard Lebanon's interests and to guarantee its territorial independence. That intervention had made it possible to end the Lebanese civil war. Despite Israel's claim, there was not a single Government in the world that did not recognize the current Government of Lebanon. What Israel was really objecting to were the close ties of blood and good neighbourliness among Arab countries. As the former occupying power in southern Lebanon for 22 years, Israel was not entitled to interfere in Lebanese internal affairs.

46. **Mr. Mekel** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he took the Lebanese representative's reference to the Israeli presence in Lebanon for 22 years as an acknowledgement that Israel had, indeed, left the country two years earlier, in 2000, despite his attempts to obscure that fact. Lebanon itself was acting in shocking disregard of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001): by giving support to the Hezbollah terrorist movement, the main cause of continuing instability in southern Lebanon and a prolific source of attacks in several countries; by funding a Lebanese-Palestinian terrorist group, whose leader was in hiding in a southern Lebanese camp; and most disquietingly, on the evidence of growing reports, by providing a safe haven for al-Qua'idah operatives led by the terrorist responsible for the 1999 plots against United States and Israeli targets in Jordan, having earlier allowed al-Qua'idah to establish a broad infrastructure near Sidon.

47. As for the Syrian Government, it was one of the most active State sponsors of terrorism, even against its own people. The Syrian Arab Republic was a brutal dictatorship and a police state, and had continued to support terrorism since 11 September 2001, even as it sat on the Security Council.

48. It was time for the puppet regime in Beirut and for the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to stop their baseless accusations and fulfil their own obligations under international law and Security Council resolutions.

49. **Mr. Assaf** (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that agreements between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon concerned only them and not Israel. Although he himself had not made the statements that Israel was attributing to him, it was impossible not to criticize a country recognized as an aggressor by the Security Council and by all nations. It was unconscionable, then, that the Israeli representative should be the one calling for respect for Security Council resolutions. Israel was understandably upset because it had been defeated by a small, heroic resistance movement seeking to liberate its territory. As for terrorists in his country, he acknowledged that some wanted terrorists were known to be in hiding in a Palestinian deportee camp in southern Lebanon but, given the nature of the camp, his Government had no

access to them and had not been able to bring them to justice.

50. **Mr. Fallouh** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Syrian Arab Republic was in Lebanon because of agreements between the two Governments, whereas Israel had had no right to interfere in the domestic affairs of Lebanon and destroy its citizens and its cities; but for the resistance of the Lebanese people, it would not have ended its occupation. Israel still had to release dozens of Lebanese prisoners in Israel, and it must put an end to its occupation of all Arab territories, or there would be no peace in the Middle East. Israel was the only State exercising State terrorism and murdering thousands. It claimed to be a democracy, but democracy must apply in relations between States as well.

51. **Mr. Bozay** (Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, regretted the distorted views expressed by the representative of Cyprus and recalled that United Nations peacekeeping operations had been undertaken in Cyprus in 1964 to protect the Turkish Cypriot population from Greek Cypriot aggression. He would not take up more of the Committee's time but said the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus would respond in due course.

52. **Mr. Menelaou** (Cyprus), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, observed that in the conditions of armed insurgency in his country in 1963, excesses could well have been committed on both sides. The Turkish delegation's version of why UNFICYP had been established, however, was belied by the Secretary-General's characterization a year later of the Turkish leadership as committed to the physical and geographical separation of the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities as a political goal, with the resulting self-segregation by Turkish Cypriots.

53. The so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" — in reality a Turkish subordinate local administration in occupied Cyprus recognized only by Turkey — had been described by the Security Council in both resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) as legally invalid, and the Turkish representation there had been called upon to withdraw from Cyprus. Hence, Turkey's practice of circulating as United Nations documents letters from that spurious entity — and its just announced intention to do so in the Committee itself — was an abuse of its prerogatives as a Member State. Turkey would do well to withdraw its occupying forces and allow the Turkish and Greek Cypriots alike to live in peace.

54. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would suspend its consideration of agenda item 78 until it took up, early in the new year, the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.